

REMARKS

Claims 20-25, 27 and 28-30 are pending. Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that the previously-submitted amendments to the specification, including the abstract, have been approved.

I. Interview Summary

Applicant additionally thanks the Examiner for the courtesies extended to his representatives, the undersigned and Eric Robins, during the Personal Interview of July 18, 2006. During the Interview, the distinctions between a "broached surface" and a "milled surface" were discussed.

II. Claim 28

As claim 28 is not subject to any rejection, prior art or otherwise, it is understood that this claim is allowed.

III. Claim Amendments/New Claims

Independent claim 20 has been amended to recite that the "broached portion" has angles sharper than possible by milling, as supported throughout the present specification, for example at page 1, first full paragraph.

New claim 29 recites that the broached portion is "burr-free," as supported at page 2, first full paragraph of the present specification.

New claim 30 similar to claim 20, but recites that the broached portion has a geometry not capable of being formed by milling. As supported in the paragraph bridging pages 1 and 2 of the present specification, and commonly known in the art, a broaching tool can be used to produce geometries not possible with a milling tool, e.g., an internal square hole.

No new matter as been added.

IV. 35 USC § 102

A. Serino et al.

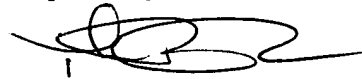
Claims 20-25 and 27 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Serino et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,357,197). The Office Action asserts that Serino et al. expressly teaches each feature recited by the rejected claims. However, in light of the amendments to claim 20, reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Specifically, as Serino et al does not teach, suggest or disclose a broached portion, and specifically does not teach a "broached portion having angles sharper than possible by milling," Applicant respectfully submits that this reference does not anticipate (or otherwise render unpatentable) the subject matter of the present claims. Similarly, as Serino et al. neither teaches nor suggests that the resulting structure is "burr-free," and as Serino et al. does not teaches, suggest or otherwise show "a geometry not capable of being formed by milling," new claims 29 and 30 are also patentable over this reference.

V. Conclusion

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that all objections and rejections are overcome. Thus, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If any fee is necessary to make this paper timely and/or complete, it may be deducted from deposit account no. 19-4375.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: Sept 21, 2006